(c) if not, the actual number thereof and whether dirty sewer water from these cities and polluted water from various industries flow into it; and

(d) if so, the estimated extent of polluted water and the percentage it constitutes of the water available in the river Ganges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to an inventory report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it is reported that there are 16 Class-I cities and 16 Class-II towns situated along the river Ganges which contribute significantly to the pollution of Ganges river due to generation of domestic and industrial waste water. The total wastewater generated from these urban centers including industries is about 2838 million liter per day (mld). About 437 km. stretch of Ganges river is reported to be polluted out of its total length of 2525 kms.

Hotels polluting the sea beach

1234. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hotels in Puri, Orissa have been found polluting the beach by releasing untreated waste water into the sea beach regularly;

(b) whether around 22 such hotels in the above holy place are under scanner; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State to ensure that the beach of this holy city is kept clean and pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The hotels located near sea beach at Puri have made provisions for septic tanks for wastewater treatment. The treated wastewater from these hotels is discharged to the underground sewer leading to Sewage Treatment System located at Bankimuhan. However, there are occasional incidents of sewage overflow due to chocking of sewer lines during peak tourist flow

including Rath Yatra period. The hotels are under periodical inspection of the Orissa Pollution Control Board. Cases have been filed against 23 defaulting hotels under CrPC 133 by the Puri Municipality in the court of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Puri.

(c) The centre has sanctioned a sewerage and sewage treatment project for Puri at an estimated amount of Rs. 48.29 crore on 70:30 cost sharing basis between the Centre and the State Government of Orissa. It covers laying of sewers and setting up of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). The project is under implementation by Orissa Water Supply and Sewerage Board.

Decentralization of Green Clearance

1235. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided about decentralization in the sphere of green clearance recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government has brought out a draft revised environment impact assessment notification published in Gazette of India *vide* S.O. 1324(E) dated 15th September, 2005. In the said draft notification, State level clearances in respect of select projects below a prescribed threshold limit are proposed.

(c) Does not arise.

Diminishing tiger population

1236. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tiger population is dwindling due to poaching in the Panama Reserves in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the population of big cats in Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan is also diminishing;